

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-24 are considered in the Office action.

Claims 1-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Owa et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971 (“Owa”).

Summary of the Reply

Applicants have amended claims 13-16 and 18-23 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, and have cancelled claims 1-12 and 17 without prejudice.

Reply to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

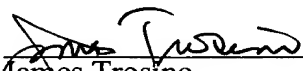
Claims 1-24 have been rejected under § 102(e) as anticipated by Owa. Amended independent claim 13 recites a printing system including a means for searching for a plurality of printers coupled to a network to create a first printer list, the searching means adapted to allow a user to perform the search automatically or manually, a first means for selecting a plurality of printers from the first list to create a second printer list, the first selection means adapted to allow the user to add or delete printers from the second printer list, a second means for selecting a plurality of printers from the second printer list to create a third printer list, the second selection means adapted to allow a user to assign a group name to the third printer list, a means for determining to which of the printers in the third printer list the print job is to be transmitted so as to balance the print job based upon a load balancing scheme, a means for transmitting the print job to the determined printers based on the load balancing scheme and a means for printing the print job by the determined printers.

Owa does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the §102(e) rejection of claim 13 be withdrawn. Because all other claims depend from claim 13, applicants further respectfully request that the §102(e) rejections of claims 14-16 and 18-24 also be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, applicants submit that this application, including claims 13-16 and 18-24, is allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner allow this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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